

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph numbered [0004] with the following paragraph:

[0004] In accordance with the present invention, a motorized vehicle trucks carrying a containers ~~is~~ are driven onto a wheeled platform along a lowered hinge ramp at one entry end ~~thereof of the platform~~. ~~The~~ Each of the trucks with the container thereon is then automatically adjusted to a position on the platform in alignment with ~~the~~ a spreader bar lowered from the boom of a marine terminal crane, under directional control of a sensing grid network associated with the platform. After unloading of the container from the truck ~~on~~ onto the platform, ~~it the truck~~ is driven off the platform along through a hinge ramp at the its other departure end of the platform opposite the truck entry end.

Please replace paragraph numbered [0014] with the following paragraph:

[0014] Referring now to the drawing in detail, FIG. 1 illustrates a marine terminal crane 10 of a type generally known in the art, mounted on a dockside pier 12. The crane 10 includes a horizontally elongated boom 14 extending from crane gentry legs 16 over a ship 18 located alongside of the pier 12 onto which ~~for unloading of containers 20 thereon are unloaded~~ from the boom 14. As also shown in FIG. 1, one of the containers 20 is located between the crane gentry legs 16 on ~~a~~ the truck 24 that is positioned ~~on~~ onto a self-aligning platform 22.

Please replace paragraph numbered [0015] with the following paragraph:

[0015] The platform 22 is transported to the crane ~~at location on~~ the pier 12 by a the motorized truck vehicle 24 as shown in FIG. 3. Thereafter, a the truck 24 with a one of the containers 20 thereon is positioned on the platform 22 in alignment with a crane spreader bar 25 so that the container 20 may be lifted onto the boom 14 as shown in FIG. 2.

Please replace paragraph numbered [0016] with the following paragraph:

[0016] Referring now to FIGS. 3, 4 and 5, the self-aligning platform 22 includes a generally rectangular frame 26 having ramps 28 hinged thereto at opposite ends. The ramp 28 at one end of the platform frame 26 is folded upward as shown in FIG. 3 to accommodate attachment thereof to of the truck 24 ~~as shown in FIG. 3~~ for transport of the platform 22 to the pier 12. Both of such ramps 28 are extended ~~positioned~~ outwardly onto the ground as shown in FIG. 4 after the platform 22 is positioned at the pier 12. Three truck reception ~~floating~~ tables 30, 32 and 34 are positioned in the platform frame 26 as shown in FIG. 5. Each of such tables 30, 32 and 34 is provided with a set of four support wheels 36 on opposite sides thereof to respectively establish a wheeled truck chassis of different sizes such as for the truck 24, a 20 ft. chassis and a 40-45 ft. chassis.

Please replace paragraph numbered [0017] with the following paragraph:

[0017] Associated with each set of the table supporting wheels 36 on the underside of each of the tables 30, 32 and 34 as shown in FIG. 7, are linear rotary bearing assemblies 38 slidable along and rotatable on fixed shafts 39 mounted on the platform support frame 26, which

is also provided with a pair of ball screw drive systems 40 and 42. Thus, as shown in FIG. 7A, the tables 30, 32 and 34 may be displaced relative to each other in two 90° related directions from its central neutral position to a limited extent. The tables 30, 32 and 34 may accordingly be adjustably repositioned while on the pier 12 in 90° related directions into alignment with the crane spreader bar 25 while providing a bearing supported surface thereon for the container 20 to be transferred therefrom onto the crane boom 14.

Please replace paragraph numbered [0018] with the following paragraph:

[0018] Also provided on the opposite sides of the platform frame 26 at the locations of the support wheels 36 are pairs of vertically extending laterally spaced pairs of triangular plates 44 having sensor elements 46 mounted at the upper ends thereof and operationally interconnected as diagrammed in FIG. 5 to form sensing grid or arrays 48 for locationally positioning of the platform table 30, 32 or 34 with the truck 24 ~~with~~ and the container 20 on the platform 22 so as to maintain the same aligned position of the platform table 30, 32 or 34 relative to the crane spreader bar 25 regardless of the prior initial positioning of the platform 22 by the truck 24. Transfer of the container 20 between the platform 22 and the crane boom 14 is thereby accommodated.

Please replace paragraph numbered [0019] with the following paragraph:

[0019] In view of the foregoing described arrangement, the platform 22 may be moved into position between the legs 16 of the crane 10 by the truck 24 which is then disengaged therefrom. A Another one of the trucks 24 with a the container 20 thereon may then drive up

one of the ramps 28 onto the ~~initially~~ previously positioned platform 22 as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. Through the sensor grid 48, the upper corners of the container 20 are located to provide signals for control of the drive systems 40 and 42 so as to optimize ~~for optimized~~ positioning of the platform tables 30, 32 and 34 in order to align the container 20 with the spreader bar 25 for lifting thereof from the platform 22, ~~after which~~ followed by the truck 24 ~~may being driven~~ drive off the platform ramp 28 at the platform departure end, opposite the approach end. The tables 30, 32 and 34 may then be realigned through the drive systems 40 and 42 to the initial neutral position before another container loaded truck 24 drives onto the platform 22 ~~with a container 20~~ to begin another repeated container transfer process with enhanced efficiency and reliability.